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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Austria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Reestablishment of Zonal Controls	DATE DISTR.	1 June 1954 25X1
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1. Soviet complaints against the internal policy of the Austrian Government on the question of re-establishment of zonal controls, in all probability the Soviets will re-establish such controls in the near future.
2. these controls will be similar to those in effect formerly, but will be more stringent. The reason for the change in the Soviet attitude toward the question of controls is a series of recent defections of Soviet personnel in Austria and an increase in the number of successful escapes into Austria, and thence into Western-controlled territories, by satellite nationals from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. 25X1
3. as early as January 1954, a disturbing development from the Soviet point of view was the fact that on many occasions members of the Austrian Communist Party, instead of assisting the Soviets in apprehending refugees from satellite countries, actually assisted these persons in their flight from Soviet-controlled areas. 25X1
4. Despite this changed attitude on the part of the Soviets, the Soviets would respect the present arrangement whereby Austria is officially regarded as an independent country with a central government of its own. 25X1
- 5.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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the inability of the Soviets to rely on any important segment of the Austrian population in maintaining internal control, and the resulting deterioration of the Soviet position there, makes it imperative that measures be taken to allow direct Soviet control over the internal situation and, especially, over the movement of Austrian and other nationals between the Soviet and Western Zones.

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